

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03326 212228Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CAB-02 COME-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0628
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PEPR KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON TOPICS OF U.S. INTEREST, APRIL 21

REF: SEOUL 3280 (DTG 200849Z APR 78)

1. ENTIRE PRESS IS DOMINATED BY STORY OF KAL PLANE MISSING ON POLAR ROUTE. WITH HARD FACTS FEW, STORY VARIES LITTLE IN SUBSTANCE FROM PAPER TO PAPER. TONG-A ILBO HEADLINES "U.S. EMBASSY INFORMS MOFA PASSENGERS SAFE", WHILE CAREFULLY NOTING IN TEXT THAT POLCOUNS CLARK HAS ADVISED MOFA ONLY THAT RADAR TRACKING LEADS U.S. TO BELIEVE THE PLANE LANDED ON SOVIET TERRITORY BUT THAT THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION THAT IT VIOLATED SOVIET AIRSPACE OR WAS FORCED TO LAND. WASHINGTON POST STORY IS WIDELY REPEATED, QUOTING JODY POWELL'S JUDICIOUS STATEMENTS FOLLOWED BY VARIOUS "U.S. OFFICIALS" SAYING PLANE WAS FORCED DOWN ON A FROZEN ARTIC LAKE NEAR THE FINNISH BORDER AND THAT SOVIETS NOTIFIED U.S. OFFICIALLY SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. TONE OF REPORTAGE IS WORRIED BUT DETERMINEDLY HOPEFUL: KAL SPOKESMAN

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INSISTING "PLANE AND PASSENGERS ARE ALL SAFE", AND RADIO BROADCASTS SAYING U.S. AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS ARE PRESSURING SOVIETS TO ASSIST IN SEARCH AND RELEASE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

2. PING PONG DIPLOMACY: PREVIOUS DAY'S CONSTERNATION HAS ABATED A BIT, WITH TODAY'S STORIES EMPHASIZING

UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF U.S. PINGPONG TEAM'S PROJECTED
VISIT TO PYONGYANG, THEIR ROLE AS ONE TEAM AMONG MANY,
AND U.S. REASSURANCES THAT IT PLANS NO UNOFFICIAL APPROACH
TO N. KOREA.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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